THE SPEECH OF Sir EDWARD TURNER KNIGHT,

SPEAKER of the Honourable Houſe of

COMMONS,

TO THE

KINGS MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,

On Monday the eleventh day of *April*, 1670.
Upon the Adjournment of the Parliament.

EDINBURGH,
Re-printed by *Evan Tyler*, Printer to the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, 1670.

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SPEAKER of the Honourable House of

COMMONS,

To the KINGS most Excellent

MAJESTY,

On Monday the eleventh day of *April*, 1670. Upon the Adjournment of the Parliament.

May it please Your most Excellent Majesty,

AT the opening of this Session of Parliament, your *Majesty* was pleased to speak to your two Houses, and recommended three things especially to us; Unity amongst our selves, the Union of your *Majesties* two Kingdoms of *England* and *Scotland*, and the supply of your *Majesties* present and urgent Occasions. In obedience to your *Majesties* Com-

mands, we have induſtriouſly applyed our ſelves to the conſideration of theſe Matters.

By the bleſſing of God, all differences are buried in oblivion; Your *Majeſties* happy Expedient, hath like a ſtrong gale of Wind, blown up the Rouling Sands, and filled up all impreſſions, *Veſtigia nulla retrorſum:* And as your People will univerſally enjoy the fruit of this happy Union, So our united prayers to God ſhall be, that your *Majeſty* may be Crowned with the promiſed Bleſſing, *Beati Patifici.*

In order to the Union of your *Majeſties* two Kingdoms, both your Houſes of Parliament have humbly beſought your *Majeſty* to name Commiſſioners for this your Kingdom of *England*, and we have prepared a Bill to Authorize them to Treat with Commiſſioners to be appointed for your Kingdom of *Scotland*, upon ſuch Grounds as ſhall be thought conducing to that end, and to report them to your *Majeſty*, and to both Houſes of Parliament of this your Kingdom of *England*, reſerving alwayes to your *Majeſty* and the two Houſes of Parliament, the entire conſideration of the whole, and the allowing or diſallowing thereof, or any part thereof, as they ſhall think fit.

We have alſo conſidered of a Supply for your *Majeſties* Occaſions; and I am commanded by the Knights, Citizens and Burgeſſes of the Houſe of Commons, to preſent your *Majeſty* with this Bill, whereby we have given to your *Majeſty* an Impoſition upon all Wines and Vinegar imported, after the rate of 8 *l. per* Tun for all French Wines and Vinegar, and 12 *l. per* Tun for all other Wines; and have granted this unto your *Majeſty* for eight years, to commence from *Midſummer* next. And I am further commanded to acquaint your *Majeſty*, that

we

we apprehended the Revenue ariſing by the power of granting Wine Licences, ſettled upon his Royal Highneſs by Act of Parliament, hath been prejudiced by the laſt Impoſition upon Wines, and will be much more impaired by this preſent Impoſition: we therefore added the laſt year unto this Bill of Supply, with this Vote, That your *Majeſty* be humbly deſired therewith to recompence his Royal Highneſs the Duke of *York*, for the damage he hath received, and ſhall receive in his Revenue of Wine Licences, by this and the laſt Impoſition.

Having thus in the firſt place with all dutifulneſs obeyed your *Majeſties* Commands, we held it neceſſary to remember thoſe that ſent us hither, and to preſent unto your *Majeſty* ſome Bills that will be of publick uſe for all the People of the Nation.

There is firſt a Bill for the prevention of Seditious Conventicles, whereby no man is hindred the uſe of his own Judgement, in the exerciſe of Religion by himſelf, or in his own Family, or in the preſence of four Strangers; but becauſe the Peace of the Nation may be endangered by more populous Meetings, contrary to the Liturgy and Practice of the Church of *England*, we have impoſed a Penalty of 5 *s.* for the firſt offence, and 10 *s.* for the ſecond, and every other offence upon all ſuch offenders, to be levyed by diſtreſs and ſale of the offenders Goods.

We are informed that your *Majeſty* ſuffers much by the ſtealing and imbezilling of your Ordnance, Ammunition, Sail Cloaths and Stores; and likewiſe your good People are much damnified by a wicked ſort of people, who make it their practice in the night-time to ſteal woollen Cloaths and Stuffs from off the Racks, and they are much encouraged in this their wickedneſs, by reaſon they have their Clergy: We have therefore prepared a Bill for the taking

ing away the benefit of Clergy, upon the conviction of all ſuch offenders.

We have likewiſe prepared an additional Bill for the rebuilding the City of *London*, wherein we have revived the Judicatory of your *Majeſties* twelve Judges, impowering them to hear and determine the remainder of Cauſes and Controverſies, which have not already received a ſettlement by them. We have alſo made proviſion for the widening many more Streets than were mentioned in the former Act, and to enable the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of *London*, to give ſatisfaction to thoſe whoſe Grounds ſhall be taken from them. And alſo for laying the foundation at leaſt of the famous Cathedral of *St. Paul*, and towards the rebuilding of fifty one Pariſh Churches, we have added an Impoſition of 2 *s.* for every Chaldron of Coals that ſhall be brought into the Port of *London*, for the ſpace of ſeventeen years to come.

We have likewiſe prepared a Bill for the aſcertaining the Meaſures of Corn and Salt, and provided that one Meaſure ſhall be uſed in all the Market-Towns of this Kingdom.

We have found great inconveniences by the want of due repairing the Highwayes of this Kingdom, and have therefore taken care for time to come both to amend them, and to prevent the ſpoiling of them again, by carrying exceſſive Loads, and drawing them with extraordinary number of Horſes and other Cattel.

Experience tells us, when the conſumption of Forreign Commodities exceeds the uſe and exportation of our Native Commodities, the Nation muſt inſenſibly grow poor, and our Treaſure will be exhauſted: We have therefore prepared a Bill for the encouragement of Tillage,

lage, by permitting the exporting of Corn, and alſo for the encouragement of other ſorts of good Husbandry, by exporting of Horſes, Swine and other Cattel, and of Butter and Cheeſe, and have made them all free Merchandize, paying certain Duties to your *Majeſty* upon the exportation.

There be ſome other Bills of a publick nature, and divers private Bills, all which are ready to be preſented to your *Majeſty* for your Royal Aſſent, the which I ſhall forbear to enumerate, for fear it may prove tedious to your *Majeſty*.

Having given your *Majeſty* this Account of our proceedings ſince our laſt meeting, in this our ſhort, but happy Seſſion, it is evident we have not miſpent our time, but with the good Servant in the Goſpel, have gained many Talents; So that we may with comfort and ſatisfaction return to our Houſes, and we hope we ſhall carry our Maſters Bleſſing with us.

HIS

HIS MAJESTIES GRACIOUS SPEECH.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I *Am unwilling to let you go away without telling you, that I am very well ſatisfied with the ſucceſs of this Meeting; and that you have ſo well complyed with My deſires, both in the correſpondence between the two Houſes, and in the progreſs you have made towards an Union between the two Kingdoms. I heartily thank you for the Supply you have given Me; and I aſſure you, I will make it go as far as I can, towards the ſatisfying of My Debts. And becauſe you have been long from home, I am content you Adjourn your ſelves till the* 24. *of* October *next.*

FINIS.